



**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Illinois' first public university

Research and Sponsored Programs

100 S. Fell Avenue, Suite A
Campus Box 3040
Normal, IL 61790-3040
Phone: (309) 438-2528
Email: ResearchOffice@IllinoisState.edu

March 14, 2022

Mr. Michael Brown
Executive Director
Ecology Action Center
202 W. College Avenue
Normal, IL 61761

Dear Mr. Brown:

Please accept the attachments as the official submission from the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University to support the Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities project under the direction of Dr. L.C. Yang. In order to complete the project, Illinois State University is requesting **\$80,758** for the period October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2025.

- Itemized budget
- Budget justification
- Statement of Work
- Resumes (2)
- Letter
- Rate Agreement

This letter confirms that the University has reviewed the submission and that the submitted documents comply with the University's normal policies and procedures for conducting sponsored projects. The project will be subject to all national and local requirements for using human subjects, animal care and use, pathogenic organisms, and other applicable regulatory issues. If this grant is awarded, Illinois State University is prepared to exercise all necessary due diligence to carry out the tasks outlined in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you should have any questions or need additional information. Thank you for your consideration, and best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beverly A. Beyer".

Beverly A. Beyer
Assistant Director of Pre-Award Services



**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH SCIENCES**
Illinois State University

College of Applied Science and Technology
Department of Health Sciences

305 Felmley Hall
Campus Box 5220
Normal, IL 61790-5220
Phone: (309) 438-8329
Fax: (309) 438-2450

March 8, 2022

Mr. Michael Brown
Ecology Action Center
202 W College Ave.
Normal, IL 61761

RE: EPA community air quality project

Dear Mr. Brown:

It is our pleasure to write in support of the community air quality monitoring and education proposal submitted by the Ecology Action Center (EAC). Understanding the ambient air quality and related health effects in environmental justice areas is critical to our community members. This project will reduce exposure to air pollutants and build trust among communities.

Illinois State University is a public research university in Normal, Illinois. Drs. Liangcheng Yang and Alicia Wodika are faculty members of the Department of Health Sciences. Dr. Yang's research focuses on air quality and pollution control, waste management, and bioenergy. He will lead the air quality monitoring and training tasks. Dr. Wodika's research focuses on sustainability and climate change advocacy and outreach. Dr. Wodika will work with community partners regarding communication, outreach, and program evaluation measures.

Thank you for the invitation. We are excited to be involved in the project.

Sincerely,

Liangcheng Yang, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Liangcheng Yang".

Associate Professor, Department of Health Sciences Environmental Health & Sustainability Program

Alicia Wodika, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alicia B. Wodika".

Assistant Professor, Department of Health Sciences, Health Promotion and Education



**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Illinois' first public university

Center for Civic Engagement

Campus Box 3800
Normal, IL 61790-3800
Phone: (309) 438-1100
CivicEngagement.IllinoisState.edu

March 21, 2022

Dear Ecology Action Center:

Please accept this letter in support of your grant application for the BN-CARE initiative through the Environmental Protection Agency.

The project is an excellent example of co-creation and interdisciplinary partnership. The combination of knowledge and skills of the Ecology Action Center with Illinois State University's environmental health, public health, and sustainability faculty/staff maximizes the positive impacts for our community.

I am particularly excited about the opportunities the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE) has to partner with the project in the later stages. Here are just a few ideas.

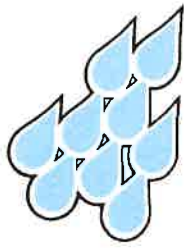
- **Community Workshops:** CCE is well-positioned to convene gatherings of relevant nonprofit organizations, individuals within Illinois State University, individuals among the three institutions of higher education in Bloomington-Normal, community leaders, and/or neighborhood associations. These workshops would create space for the BN-CARE team to share data, project outcomes, and work with community to identify next steps.
- **Community Communication:** CCE is also well-positioned to serve as a conduit for communication. Over 200 people from local governmental and nonprofit organizations already receive our quarterly partner newsletter. We would easily incorporate information into that publication. We would also serve as advisors as the team identifies who should be receiving information and how it should be received.
- **Public Policy:** Should the efforts of the project lead to a need for public policy change, CCE will support the team. This could include connections with university governmental relations or committees and elected officials at the City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, or McLean County. CCE has also found success in a policy dinner model that allows a small group of students to deeply explore a particular policy area with community experts. There may be an opportunity for students to help shape proposed policy changes.
- **Student Involvement:** There may be several opportunities for students to engage with this initiative. As mentioned above, students may be able to help with public policy development. CCE can also identify other classes or faculty that can support the project through data analysis. As the project progresses, there may be several other opportunities for additional support. CCE will look for ways to include students in those roles and/or duties.

As a staff member in the Center for Civic Engagement, this is a very exciting project. As a member of the Bloomington-Normal community, I find it equally exciting. This collaboration could have tremendous benefit for the community. I hope BN-CARES is selected as one of the grant recipients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Harriett Steinbach". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Harriett Steinbach
Assistant Director



Bloomington and Normal Water Reclamation District

P.O. Box 3307, Bloomington, IL 61702-3307 (309) 827-4396

March 18, 2022

Mr. Michael Brown
Ecology Action Center
P.O. Box 97
Normal, IL 61761

Re: Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant

The Bloomington Normal Water Reclamation District strongly supports the Ecology Action Center application for the Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant. The District believe the enhanced air monitoring will provide data on air quality which can be used to assess the impact on local health. The project will focus on the west side of Bloomington and north Normal specifically examining the area designated Environmental Justice areas.

The Bloomington Normal Water Reclamation District intends to partner with the Ecology Action Center by posting an air monitor at the West Wastewater Treatment Plant located on the southwest side of Bloomington. Additionally, the District plans to coordinate with the Ecology Action Center through a tree planting initiative to help remove ozone and sequester carbon from our air.

The District believes the project will benefit the community. The Ecology Action Center plans to work with air quality and community health experts from Illinois State University and partners with the NAACP and other community organizations to build awareness of air quality issues and build partnerships towards collaborative community approaches to improving air quality. The District has a solid history of working with the Ecology Action Center in areas such as stormwater education and overseeing the household hazardous waste events.

Thank you for your consideration,

Timothy L. Ervin
Executive Director



115 S. Euclid Ave.
Bloomington, IL 61701
309/827-7117 Fax: 7152

March 22, 2022

Michael Brown
Ecology Action Center
PO Box 97
Normal, IL 61701

Dear, Michael:

I write on behalf of Cargill, Inc. in support of the Ecology Action Center proposal for the EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant. We are aware that our community has long been borderline in "nonattainment" for the federally regulated air pollutant ozone. Better local data on air quality will allow us to highlight continued successes in protecting the environment and community health. As our community continues to grow and thrive, this data will provide the information needed to work in collaboration with community partners to improve air quality.

Cargill understands the potential impacts that air quality can have on public health. When air quality was recognized as a public health concern in the 1960s, Cargill initiated research and introduced changes that actively reduced grain dust emissions. In recent years the company has demonstrated a continued commitment to air quality, reducing greenhouse gases by increasing use of renewable energy. Today our community is at risk for exceeding standards for the federally regulated air pollutant ozone, which is strongly correlated with respiratory disease including asthma and emphysema. If we fail to proactively monitor air quality and address issues that arise, a regulatory response could also impose economic barriers to efficient production and economic development here in McLean County. Increased awareness and access to good data will allow for the development of local solutions.

Dedicated to food security and community wellbeing, Cargill supports this grant application and its focus on proactively monitoring air quality for the sake of a healthy, robust community in which all are free to thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Bruemmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Bruemmer
EHS Coordinator



115 E. Washington St.
Bloomington, IL 61702-3157
www.cityblm.org/publicworks
Phone: (309) 434-2225
Fax: (309) 434-2201

March 21, 2022

Michael Brown
Executive Director
Ecology Action Center
PO Box 97
Normal, IL 61761

Dear Mr. Brown,

This is a letter of support for the Ecology Action Center application for the US EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant.

The City of Bloomington has had a long relationship of supporting the work of the Ecology Action Center in our community. The Ecology Action Center as the local environmental sustainability agency has a proven track record of providing resources to the community to promote and encourage recycling, composting, clean water, clean air, clean energy, house hold hazard waste collection, and overall best practices for solid waste management and reduction.

There is a need for better local data on air quality and the impact on public health, especially the disproportionate impact on residents living and working in the environmental justice areas in our community. The Bloomington-Normal community covers over 45 square miles but there is currently just one air quality monitoring sensor in the Town of Normal at the north end of the Illinois State University campus.

The City of Bloomington staff realize the importance of this project and supports the Ecology Action Center in its efforts to collect better data to improve air quality in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kevin Kothe'.

Kevin Kothe, P.E.
Director of Public Works



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY

March 17, 2022

Mr. Michael Brown, Executive Director
Ecology Action Center
202 W. College Ave
Normal, IL. 61761

Via email

Dear Mr. Brown,

On behalf of Illinois Wesleyan University, I would like to convey the University's support of your application to the EPA's *Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities* Grant. Data from the BN-CARE (Bloomington-Normal Community Air Quality Research and Education) project would be very useful for courses in our Environmental Studies Program as well as with our Action Research Center.

If funded, we look forward to partnering with the Ecology Action Center on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "S. Georgia Nugent".

S. Georgia Nugent
President

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

1312 PARK STREET • PO BOX 2900 • BLOOMINGTON, IL 61702-2900 • (309) 556-3151 • FAX (309) 556-3970 • WWW.IWU.EDU



Michael Brown
Ecology Action Center
PO Box 97
Normal, IL 61761

Regarding: Bloomington Normal Illinois Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant March 21, 2022

Dear Michael,

I am very pleased to represent the Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council and write a letter of support for our Ecology Action Center's (EAC) community air quality monitoring project. Air quality impacts our quality of place which directly impacts our residents, workers and visitors quality of life. The EAC's community air quality monitoring project is a proactive approach to address any air quality issues. If we do not know where the problems are, we can not address them.

The BNEDC retains, attracts and assists Bloomington-Normal businesses, including environmentally friendly manufacturers like Rivian Automotive, grow. The number one resource for sustained economic growth is a qualified workforce. Without an environmentally friendly community we will not be able to retain and attract talent to sustain our local businesses.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Hoban', written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Patrick Hoban
CEO
Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council



OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

Illinois State University

March 14, 2022

To: Ecology Action Center/Michael Brown

I am writing to express my strong support of the "Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities" grant submitted in partnership by the Ecology Action Center and the Illinois State University Department of Health Sciences.

Receiving this grant would greatly assist with efforts to measures air quality in key areas of Bloomington, specifically within areas designated as environmental justice zones.

Gathering the data and information from these measurements will raise awareness of the air quality in the region, potentially leading to action addressing the air quality issues in the community. Researchers associated with the project would lead recording air quality measurements, but families in Bloomington as well as students at Illinois State University could also be involved with monitoring outdoor air quality at the facility and/or possibly at their homes with mobile monitoring devices. This interactive engagement with the process would work to increase awareness of the importance of air quality and provide an opportunity for the community to better understand the importance of protecting the environment.

For these reasons, I urge you to consider awarding this grant to the Ecology Action Center and the ISU Department of Health Sciences. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Reed

Director, Office of Sustainability
Illinois State University

She/Her/Hers

305 N. School St.

Campus Box 9160

Normal, IL 61790-9160

Tel: 309.438.4425

www.sustainability.illinoisstate.edu



HEARTLAND
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

March 21, 2022

Michael Brown
Ecology Action Center
PO Box 97
Normal, IL 61761

Dear Mr. Brown,

The Heartland Community College strategic plan emphasizes social justice, community enrichment and environmental stewardship, and thus we are honored to support the **Ecology Action Center** application for the **Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant**.

We acknowledge that there is a growing need for additional data about air quality in our local area. Poor air quality threatens to stymie the College's consistent work with community partners to grow economic opportunities. The need for data is particularly urgent given the disproportionate impact of poor air quality on those residents in environmental justice areas, such as the west side of Bloomington, Illinois and the north side of Normal, Illinois.

With the Ecology Action Center and the Tree Corps project, the College plans to create conditions for improved air quality with the planting of over 5,000 trees on our Normal campus. Over the next three years, the College's Science Department faculty and students will utilize the acquired portable air monitoring devices in several program areas, including Earth and Environmental Sciences, to conduct field studies on air quality. The data collected by our students will be analyzed in subsequent classroom activities and become a piece of a larger curriculum that incorporates learning objectives on environmental stewardship and justice.

The Ecology Action Center is a sound partner that has coordinated several successful community initiatives of this type. Heartland Community College is eager to support their efforts, and augment our students' academic experiences, via participation in this grant-funded initiative.

Richard R. Pearce, Ph.D.

Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs

EDUCATING CHILDREN



HEARTLAND HEAD START

EMPOWERING FAMILIES

March 21, 2022

Ecology Action Center
202. W. College Ave
Normal, IL 61761

To Whom It May Concern,

Heartland Head Start is pleased to offer support to The Ecology Action Center and The Department of Health Sciences for the "Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities" grant.

As the Executive Director of Heartland Head Start, I am highly aware of the great needs within our field to address the multifaceted and complex issues facing children and families utilizing Head Start services.

We know that poor air quality can exacerbate existing conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and heart disease (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Outdoor Air, 2019). Children growing up in cleaner air have much greater lung function growth, a benefit that may help them throughout their lives.

Here at Heartland Head Start, we realize that health is one of the foundations of school readiness. Here children learn healthy habits and can access the care they need. Head Start also promotes the physical, social, and emotional well-being of families and staff.

Heartland Head Start gladly offers its support for the "Enhanced Air Quality for Monitoring Communities" grant proposal and looks forward to the possibility of partnering with The Ecology Action Center and The Department of Health Sciences at Illinois State University.

Thank you,

Kalessa Edgerison
Executive Director

KE/mw

Heartland Head Start is a 501 c 3 organization.



309-662-4880 • Fax 309-662-9470
206 Stillwell Street • Bloomington, Illinois 61701



Michael Brown
Ecology Action Center
PO Box 97
Normal, IL 61761



Upper Limits
1304 W. Washington
Bloomington, IL 61701
www.upperlimits.com

March 18th, 2022

Dear Mr. Michael Brown,

I write on behalf of Upper Limits Rock Gym and Pro Shop to express our strong support for the Ecology Action Center's application to the US EPA for the Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant.

For over 25 years, Upper Limits has partnered with local organizations that make a positive impact on our community. We are honored to assist the Ecology Action Center by hosting an air quality monitor for the duration of their project and partner with their efforts to plant trees in Bloomington and Normal.

We support the mission of the Ecology Action Center and agree that the need exists for better local data on air quality in our community. Ozone pollution is strongly correlated with respiratory disease and has significant impacts on public health and future economic development. It is in the best interest of the community to improve air quality in designated Environmental Justice areas on the west side of Bloomington and the north side of Normal.

The Ecology Action Center has a long history of inspiring residents of McLean county to create, strengthen, and preserve a healthy environment. They offer extremely valuable information, education, outreach, and technical assistance to members of the community. As ambassadors of the outdoors, Upper Limits recognizes the important role the EAC plays in preserving the environment for future generations and is proud to partner with them on this project and future projects.


Marketing Director
nikki@upperlimits.com
309.829.8255



MID CENTRAL COMMUNITY ACTION



March 15, 2022

Main Office

1301 W. Washington St.
Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone: (309) 829-0691
Fax: (309) 828-8811

Livingston County Office

211 E. Madison St., Suite #4
Pontiac, IL 61764
Ph.: (309) 834-9283
Fax: (309) 828-8811

Housing Programs

Community Engagement
Credit Repair & Counseling
Financial Literacy
Foreclosure Intervention
Homebuyer Education
Mayors Manor Supportive Housing

Neville House Shelter/

Countering Domestic Violence

Community Service Programs

Supportive Services
Internship/Scholarship Program
Family Stabilization

Board of Directors

Belinda Landry, President
Mark Clinch, Vice-President
Jason Pals, Treasurer
Kim Crutcher, Secretary
Bernard Anderson
Sheila Diaz
Victoria Harris
Jeremy Hayes
James Joyner
Mary Lawson
Debbie Lindberg
Kevin Richardson
Kathy Nicholson-Tosh
Seth Welch
Stacey Wiggins

Executive Director

Tami Foley

Michael Brown
Ecology Action Center
PO Box 97
Normal, IL 61761

Dear Mr. Brown:

Mid Central Community Action (MCCA) is pleased to submit a letter of support for the Ecology Action Center's application for the Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant. We are a Green designated organization through NeighborWorks® America and work closely with them to educate residents on ways to enhance the environment. We have partnered with them on the Radon Awareness Program and held Green education classes together.

Our vision: ***MCCA envisions healthy, self-sufficient families interacting positively with one another in strong, safe, and diverse neighborhoods to enhance the community while preserving the environment.***

Our vision cannot be complete without the local data needed to promote a healthy environment and correct issues in the communities that we serve which are within the designated Environmental Justice areas. Multiple agencies, including the McLean County Health Department, have done studies that show this area of McLean County has disproportionate levels of poor health, environmental challenges, and unhealthy living conditions due to having older homes, education needs, and funding deficiencies.

MCCA would be pleased to partner in the grant and host an air monitor on our property which is located within the Environmental Justice area. This will not only assist in collecting the needed data, but it will also give us an opportunity to educate our clients and partners on what it is and why it is important to have on our property and in our community.

In summary, it is without reservation that I unequivocally support the Ecology Action Center's application for the Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant. This grant will help improve the quality of life for our clients and neighborhoods. For additional information, you are welcome to contact me at tamif@mccainc.org or 309.834.9231.

Respectfully,

Tami Foley, SHRM-CP, CNED
MCCA Executive Director





March 17, 2022

Mr. Michael Brown, Executive Director
Ecology Action Center
PO Box 97
Normal, IL 61761

Dear Mr. Brown,

On behalf of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, I am pleased to provide a letter of support and encouragement for the application of the Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant.

We understand that McLean County has been borderline in "nonattainment" for the federally regulated air pollutant ozone. In addition to significant public health impacts, failing to meet the legal standards for ozone can have heavy economic impacts including acting as a barrier to economic development which causes us great concern.

The Ecology Action Center (EAC) is well known and respected as the environmental sustainability agency for Bloomington, Normal, and McLean County. We are very appreciative of the focus the EAC maintains on critical issues such as air quality and recognizes the successful track record in coordinating community initiatives relative to environmental health and building successful partnerships.

We appreciate the EAC's proactive interest and intent to address the issue of air quality and look forward to learning the outcome of the application.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles M. Moore', written over a horizontal line.

Charles M. Moore
President & CEO





McLEAN COUNTY BOARD
(309) 888-5110 FAX (309) 888-5111
115 E. Washington P.O. Box 2400
Bloomington, Illinois 61702-2400

John D. McIntyre
Chairman

March 10, 2022

Michael Brown
Ecology Action Center
PO Box 97
Normal, IL 61761

RE: Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant Application

Dear Mr. Brown:

The McLean County Board appreciates the work of the Ecology Action Center (EAC) and many partner organizations to improve the environment in our community. The proposed application for funding under the EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities is an excellent opportunity to increase local knowledge and understanding of air pollution and connections with public health and further increase community collaborations toward solutions to these issues.

The Ecology Action Center has a long and reliable track record of providing important services to the Bloomington, Normal, and McLean County community for over five decades. Since 2001, the Ecology Action Center has been a direct service provider to McLean County, starting with recycling and waste education and outreach efforts and eventually taking on coordination of solid waste management planning, household hazardous waste collection coordination, clean water education and outreach, and other environmental initiatives for the community.

Poor air quality is correlated with a number of serious public health issues, however, the lack of good data is a serious barrier to addressing the issue. McLean County recognizes the need for increased air quality monitoring in our community and fully supports the EAC's application to the EPA.

Sincerely,

John McIntyre
McLean County Board Chair

District #1
Catherine Melsker
Gerald Thompson

District #3
George O. Wendt
Randall L. Martin

District #5
John McIntyre
Elizabeth Johnston

District #7
Sharon Chung
Val Laymon

District #9
Susan Schafer
Lyndsay Bloomfield

District #2
Jim Soeldner
William Friedrich

District #4
Jim Rogal
Matthew Coates

District #6
Hannah Beer
Beverly Bell

District #8
Shayna Watchinski
Lea Cline

District #10
Chuck Erickson
Josh W. Barnett



MCLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

115 E. Washington St., M103 • Bloomington, IL 61701-4089
Phone: 309-828-4331 • Fax: 309-827-4773 • www.mcplan.org

March 21, 2022

Mr. Michael Brown
Executive Director
Ecology Action Center (EAC)
PO Box 97
Normal, IL 61761

Re: US EPA Grant Application - Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Program

Dear Mr. Brown,

The McLean County Regional Planning Commission (MCRPC) staff is in strong support of Ecology Action Center's grant application to US EPA for funding the proposed community air quality monitoring project, with focus on the west side of Bloomington and north Normal, and specifically, the designated Environmental Justice (EJ) areas.

EAC's proposal, if approved, would build awareness of air quality issues in our area, including the EJ areas, and build partnerships towards collaborative community approaches to improving air quality. The assessment over a three-year period and subsequent availability of data collected will also be very helpful in determining where the impacts are most severe, enhancing consideration for transportation planning and public health strategies. It's another arrow in the sustainability and equity quiver that we value.

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Bloomington-Normal Urbanized Area, MCRPC recognizes the potential physical, social, economic, and environmental benefits produced by a successful air monitoring program. EAC is the environmental sustainability agency for Bloomington, Normal, and McLean County. It has undertaken positive work in the community and successful track record in coordinating community environmental initiatives and building successful partnerships including with MCRPC.

We therefore offer full support of this application which deserves favorable consideration by US EPA to provide funding for the proposed community air quality monitoring project. Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Raymond Lai, AICP
Executive Director

MCRPC is the leader for planning tomorrow's McLean County

John Burrill, Chairperson • Carl Teichman, Vice Chairperson • Bart Bittner • Jim Fruin
Stan Gozur • Dr. Charles Irwin • Jennifer Langley • Tony Morstatter • Carl Olson • Michael Pettorini



N. A. A. C. P.

**National Association for the
Advancement of Colored
People**

Ms. Linda Foster
President

309-826-3204 (C)
lafoste@ilstu.edu

Dr. Carla Campbell-Jackson
1st Vice-President

309-530-5211 (C)
dr.carlacampbell@gmail.com

Mrs. Willie Holton Halbert
2nd Vice-President

309-287-1954 (C)
dime54@aol.com

Mr. Ben Ryburn
Treasurer

309-530-2858 (C)
benryburn@ilstu.edu

Mrs. Sabrina Coleman
Secretary

217-260-1523 (C)
bnnaacp.secretary@gmail.com

OUR MISSION:

To ensure the political,
educational, social and economic
equality of rights of all persons
and to eliminate race-based
discrimination.

VISION STATEMENT:

To ensure a society in which all
individuals have equal rights
without discrimination based on
race.

THE BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL BRANCH OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for the ADVANCEMENT of
COLORED PEOPLE

Date: March 22, 2022

To: Mr. Michael Brown
Ecology Action Center
P. O. Box 97
Normal, Illinois 61761

From: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
Bloomington-Normal Branch Executive Committee

Re: Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant Application

The Bloomington-Normal Branch of the NAACP fully supports the Ecology Action Center's Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant Application, and is excited to partner with them on this important project.

Our Branch's Strategic Action Plan lists Environmental and Climate Justice as an action area as NAACP recognizes that communities of color and low income communities are often dismally impacted by climate change and the pollution that contributes to it. NAACP aims to ensure all citizens are free from the ills associated with environmental injustice and climate change.

To support the Ecology Action Center's efforts, we are committed to assist with the following:

- Assist with providing outreach through our membership, committees, and community connections to inform the community, particularly residents and organizations within the Environmental Justice areas of west Bloomington and north Normal, about the program.
- Assist with recruiting residents and organization groups to participate via fundraising and volunteering to plant trees for the Ecology Action Center's ongoing Tree Corps initiative.
- Assist with connecting groups and residents with the Ecology Action Center to utilize the portable air quality monitors for small-scale, temporary, air quality monitoring projects throughout the community and in different locations within the Environmental Justice areas.
- Assist with leading Community Conversations in the Environmental Justice areas to actively engage residents with the data being collected from the air-quality monitors



N. A. A. C. P.

**National Association for the
Advancement of Colored
People**

Ms. Linda Foster
President
309-826-3204 (C)
lafoste@ilstu.edu

Dr. Carla Campbell-Jackson
1st Vice-President
309-530-5211 (C)
dr.carlacampbell@gmail.com

Mrs. Willie Holton Halbert
2nd Vice-President
309-287-1954 (C)
dime54@aol.com

Mr. Ben Ryburn
Treasurer
309-530-2858 (C)
benryburn@ilstu.edu

Mrs. Sabrina Coleman
Secretary
217-260-1523 (C)
bnnaacp.secretary@gmail.com

OUR MISSION:

To ensure the political,
educational, social and economic
equality of rights of all persons
and to eliminate race-based
discrimination.

VISION STATEMENT:

To ensure a society in which all
individuals have equal rights
without discrimination based on
race.

to give them opportunities to receive updated information, ask questions, and as a community brainstorm future actions to reduce emissions and mitigate harm.

The NAACP is looking forward to working with the Ecology Action Center on this project, under the Branch's Environmental and Climate Justice Liaisons—Deacon Kevin Jackson and Mr. Ben Ryburn. This is an excellent opportunity to obtain concrete data about air quality issues in our local communities of color and low-income communities. We look forward to engaging our communities with the information this project will collect, and its implications, and empower each other to work together to improve air quality in Bloomington-Normal, and minimize the negative impact of environmental degradation in our Environmental Justice areas.

Sincerely,

Ms. Linda Foster
President

The Bloomington/Normal Branch of the NAACP meets every third Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at Mount Pisgah Baptist Church-801 W. Market Street in Bloomington, Illinois. Please join us!



NORMAL COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

3900 East Raab Road | Normal, Illinois 61761 | Phone (309) 557-4401 | Website: www.unit5.org/NCHS

Michael Brown

Ecology Action Center

PO Box 97

Normal, IL 61761

March 21, 2022

Dear Mr. Michael Brown,

I would like to express my support for the Ecology Action Center initiative to collect air quality data and further educated the community. As a social studies teacher at Normal Community High School, I know that air pollution affects public health, and the health of the children we serve in our school district. Allowing students to learn more about the air quality of their local community, and be able to participate in the scientific process, will help grow their logic, geospatial, and scientific reasoning skills.

Normal Community High School and McLean County Unit District #5 currently are in a partnership with the Ecology Action Center to bring educational programs to every school in McLean County. For the past several years, the Ecology Action Center has provided educational programs about recycling to fourth grade classrooms throughout the county, and educational programs about the water cycle to third grade classrooms throughout the county. We have seen success in these programs, and look forward to collaborating with the Ecology Action Center with another environmental initiative to benefit public health in our community.

We are excited to see the Ecology Action Center take these next steps to furthering environmental education in our community.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Sues

Kevin Sues

Social Studies

Normal Community High School

Dr. Trevor Chapman, *Principal* | Mrs. Nikki Maurer, *Associate Principal*

Mr. Jeff Barnard, *Asst. Principal* | Mr. Anthony Clark, *Asst. Principal* | Mr. Dan Gibler, *Asst. Principal*
Mrs. Wendy Davis, *Asst. Principal* | Mr. Nic Kearfott, *Athletic Director*



Office of the Mayor

Michael Brown
Ecology Action Center
PO Box 97
Normal, IL 61761

March 18, 2022

Dear Mr. Michael Brown,

The Town of Normal is in full support of the Ecology Action Center's proposal for funding under the EPA Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring in Communities opportunity. The Town of Normal has contracted the Ecology Action Center for other environmental initiatives, including community outreach and coordination of solid waste reduction, clean water protection, hazardous waste collection, energy efficiency, and greenhouse gas inventorying and planning. I can attest to the quality and reliability of the Ecology Action Center's work and submission of reliable and complete program reports detailing progress towards programmatic goals.

Air quality is important to the Town of Normal for the public health of its residents. Currently, only one monitor exists to determine air quality for our twin cities of Bloomington and Normal and surrounding areas. One device alone cannot accurately report on the variations in air quality pollutants to which local residents are subjected across our community. Increased data, especially relative to local environmental justice areas, will allow our community to better understand and address disproportionate impacts of air pollution on public health. The Town of Normal will provide space within Fairview Park in the north Normal environmental Justice area for an air quality monitor if this project is selected for funding.

As a key stakeholder on this project, the Town of Normal looks forward to participating in the community dialog about air quality and working towards collaborative solutions for better public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Koos".

Chris Koos
Mayor

"Committed to Service Excellence"

11 Uptown Circle • Post Office Box 589 • Normal, Illinois 61761-0589
Telephone (309) 454-2444 • Fax (309) 454-9609 • TDD (309) 454-9630
www.normal.org



To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Mary Tackett, and I am the Executive Director at Western Avenue Community Center. I am writing a letter of support for the Ecology Action Center's application for the Enhanced Air Quality Monitors for Communities Grant.

Western Avenue Community Center is a community center on the westside of Bloomington, Illinois. We serve low-income, immigrant, and at-risk individuals and families through educational, recreational, health, and social service programs. The air monitors that would be installed using the funds from this grant would be in our Center's neighborhood and the information from these monitors would directly impact and gather information to support our clients.

Our surrounding neighborhood is plagued with lack of access to resources that our citizens deserve. Our area is considered a food-desert, has limited health-care facilities, and has outdated infrastructure. These socioeconomic issues coupled with environmental pollution leads to mental and physical health problems. Many individuals in our neighborhood suffer from obesity, diabetes, and mental health issues. These monitors would provide information to help us make changes to support our communities and give our neighbors the environmental justice they deserve. I look forward to the work the Ecology Action Center will do with the Enhanced Air Quality Monitors and the change that will come from them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Tackett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Tackett

**600 N. WESTERN AVENUE,
BLOOMINGTON, IL 61701**

PHONE:
309 829 4807

WEBSITE:
WWW.WESTERNAVENUECC.ORG

EMAIL:
mtackett@westernavenuecc.org

March 16, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

It is my privilege, on behalf of YWCA McLean County, to endorse the Ecology Action Center (EAC) for the Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant.

Since 1971, the EAC has maintained a set of principles rooted in transparency and restorative environmental action here in Bloomington-Normal, Ill. With these fundamentals, the EAC continues to strengthen our community through piece-wise education, outreach, and investigation. This agency actively identifies environmental risk within our community, and brings to light the harm that denial and complacency can have on the lives of our residents – especially those suffering from the inequities surrounding air quality.

Throughout the years, we've seen the EAC launch their conservation-based Energy Bright Program, excel in their efforts to reduce synthetic pesticide use through their Yard Smart Program, and create safe locations for residential and business hazardous waste collection. Beyond that, the EAC's Bloomington-Normal Clean Air Fund addresses climate change on a micro-level while strategically establishing reasonable objectives to reduce our community carbon footprint. Now, more than ever, the EAC's clean air actions are imperative due to the perils that ozone pollution inflicts on the physical health and economic strength of individuals in underserved areas. With the aid of the Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities Grant, the EAC can fortify their efforts to enact environmental justice and solidify hope for a cleaner, stronger future.

Currently, there is only one air-quality monitor in our community in an area of higher socioeconomic status. The EAC's plan to install three stationary air monitoring devices, with the aid of community experts from Illinois State University and partners with the NAACP, gives areas with disproportionate resources a chance to reclaim innate aspects of their livelihood. No individual should ever have to worry about how air quality that does not meet legal standards is affecting their respiratory well-being and opportunities to economically advance. The EAC's efforts will ensure that such monitoring is available and equitable.

We have been honored to work with the EAC for many years. We share common goals, and the EAC continues to illuminate their unwavering dedication through support of YWCA's mission to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. The EAC has become a valued partner to our organization, and we are eager to see how their air quality monitoring initiatives can spark positive change.

We wholeheartedly recommend EAC for federal funding on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Sincerely,



Liz German
President/CEO, YWCA McLean County